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Panchayati Raj

DECEMBER 1964

...e a craze not only with ...ldren but they have an un- ...attraction for the grown- ... In the picture, a girl ... is making a toy in the ...-Cum-Production Centre ...ampur run by the Punjab Government.

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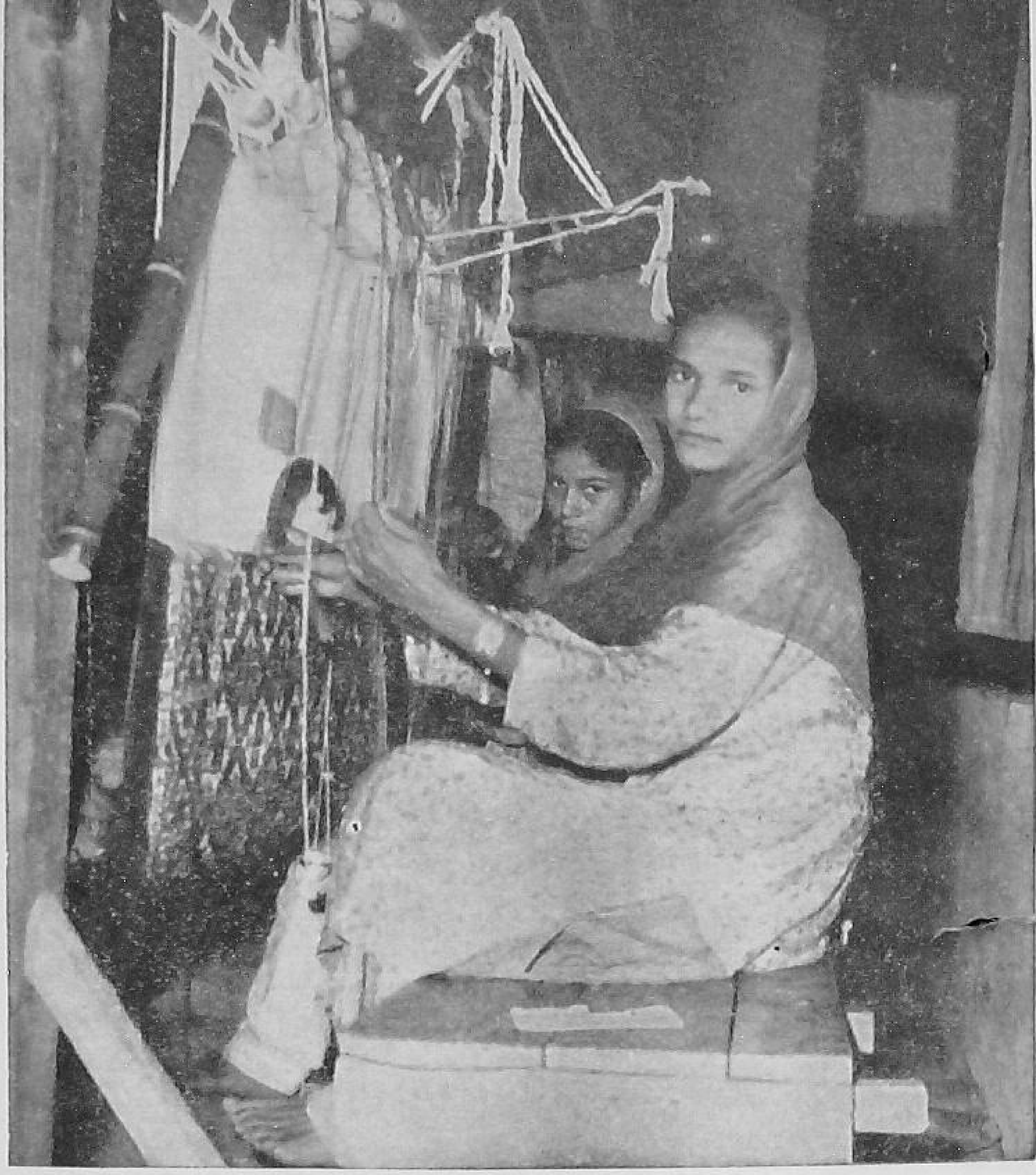
EARNING CARPET MAKING



Girl trainees learning the age-old industry of carpet-making in one of the Training Centres in the Punjab.

Vol. V DECEMBER 1964 No. 9
AGRHAYANA 1886

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EDITOR : V. K. SASTRY

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LETTERS

CO-ORDINATION NEEDED

Sir,

IT IS a pity that though the Community Development Department is a department of co-ordination and co-operation between the various units, there is little evidence of that in actual practice. While the local Panchayat takes one decision in the interest of the people, the Block authorities take an altogether different view. The conflicting decisions of the different authorities cause a lot of confusion and misunderstanding in the minds of the people. I know of a case where the Panchayat took a decision to repair a certain unused well. But the Block authorities thought it fit to fill in the well rather than repair it even though a bathroom had been built by them and they had incurred some expenditure on it earlier. If Panchayati Raj is to succeed, decisions should be taken keeping into view the felt-needs of the people rather than to suit the whims and fancies of individual officials.

Yours etc.,
P. KARUNA KARAN,
MEMBER, PANCHAYAT.

5-10-1964
Tellichery,
KERALA.

CALL OF THE HOUR

Sir,

INTRODUCTION of Panchayati Raj has thrown up a new leadership in the persons of Panches, Sarpanches and Pradhans etc. in the rural areas. They generally belong to the richer and more well-to-do section of the villagers. Most of them are Zamindars. One hardly comes across a commoner as a leader in Panchayati Raj. Wherever one goes, one finds the poor quality of the present leadership. The pre-independence era had thrown up a leadership which consisted of selfless, sincere and dedicated patriots. The post-independence leadership is devoid of these qualities. There is indeed a great dearth of leadership, in the villages these days. Whoever got the privilege of being educated have since left and settled in the city. Leadership has, therefore, devolved on the privileged section of the villagers which is thoroughly incompetent for the job.

It is also a fact that these Panchayati Raj leaders play the role of agents during the general elections and party elections. This is a gross misuse of Panchayati Raj. But what is the remedy? The educated youth alone can provide the proper leadership. This calls for courage and conviction and sense of dedication on the part of the enlightened youth of the country. They should be prepared to renounce the lure of security and comfort in favour of a life of hardship in the rural areas. This is the call of the hour. Will they respond?

Yours etc.,
P. C. PATTANAYAK
BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

6-10-1964
Kendrapara-1,
ORISSA.

(Continued on page 7)

INDIA AT THE CROSS ROADS

S. K. DEY

INDIA is at the cross-roads. The world is at the turning point of history. Another Co-operative Week is on. This cannot be a mere continuation of the past; for, the fast moving events in the world and so also in India call for a more radical approach.

As a people we are prone, through natural gravitation, to live more in the realm of theory, ideology and polemics. We do not see, and are not easily put out of countenance by, the gap that yawns between profession and practice. We do not see that such contradictions in the national character cannot but lead to disaster as these have done almost throughout the history of this country. While the good people talk of the virtues in the life beyond and of ideology in the upper air, the crafty ones continue their racket of picking the pocket of the community with impunity. This cannot go on except at our peril.

The country faced a crisis on the food front. This promises to ease somewhat. But, we cannot count on the help of God if we do not help ourselves. Significantly, the Prime Minister has given the clarion call : agriculture is basic to India's survival, of orderly progress, of democracy —economic, political and social. Poverty which gnaws into the vitals of the large masses of our people has to be eradicated with a firm hand. The disparity between the rich and the poor must be removed. Rural areas wherein live the teeming millions of India's citizens must receive their due share, and those who trade for personal profit at the expense of the community must be brought to book and dealt with firmly.

Cooperation holds the key to economic growth in a democracy. The system came in originally to help the relatively disorganised and weak sector of people, to give them the strength to assert themselves through organised community effort, which Cooperation alone could provide. The traders and the profiteers amongst men were to be kept scrupulously out. The Government of India, during the past few years, have come out to help the cooperative movement to grow thus with substantial assistance—economic, administrative and technical; but, government assistance cannot act as a substitute for self-reliance in people's own leadership. Indeed, at times, overmuch initiative from government tends to act as a deterrent to the growth of such initiative. People's leadership in the cooperative movement cannot grow except on the basis of service, martyrdom in the cause of the community and complete abnegation of self-interest *vis-a-vis* community interest.

During the cooperative year 1964-65, the Government of India is out to open a new chapter. There will be substantial assistance offered in economic, administrative and technical terms. Simultaneously vigorous efforts will be made to liquidate defunct societies, eradicate spurious ones and to amalgamate and consolidate activities and institutions so that they may prove to be viable units within a reasonable length of time. Efforts will also be made to identify and locate spurious leadership and vested interests and then eradicate them as a virus in the system. Cooperators in India will be encouraged and enabled to see the great work in different fields of Cooperation which is being done in different parts of the country. They will be discouraged from undertaking foreign studies till they have mastered what the homeland has to offer. Federal organisations will be promoted in all sectors of cooperatives. These will be encouraged to play their role at the national level, to help the government in formulating correct policies and to offer self-regulation to cooperative organisations down below. These will help promote trained cadres of cooperative office-bearers and of cooperative functionaries.

In this wider context it is hoped that the National Cooperative Union, as it happens in every cooperative country in the world, will concentrate itself on the promotion of self-reliant cooperative leadership by setting an example in its own house, by strengthening the system of training, both institutional and peripatetic, for cadres, office-bearers, leadership and the people. The National Cooperative Union with its counter-

(*Continued on page* 4)

CULTIVATING PULSES IN RICE FALLOWS

M. GEORGE

Cow-peas cultivation in a field from which paddy has been recently harvested.

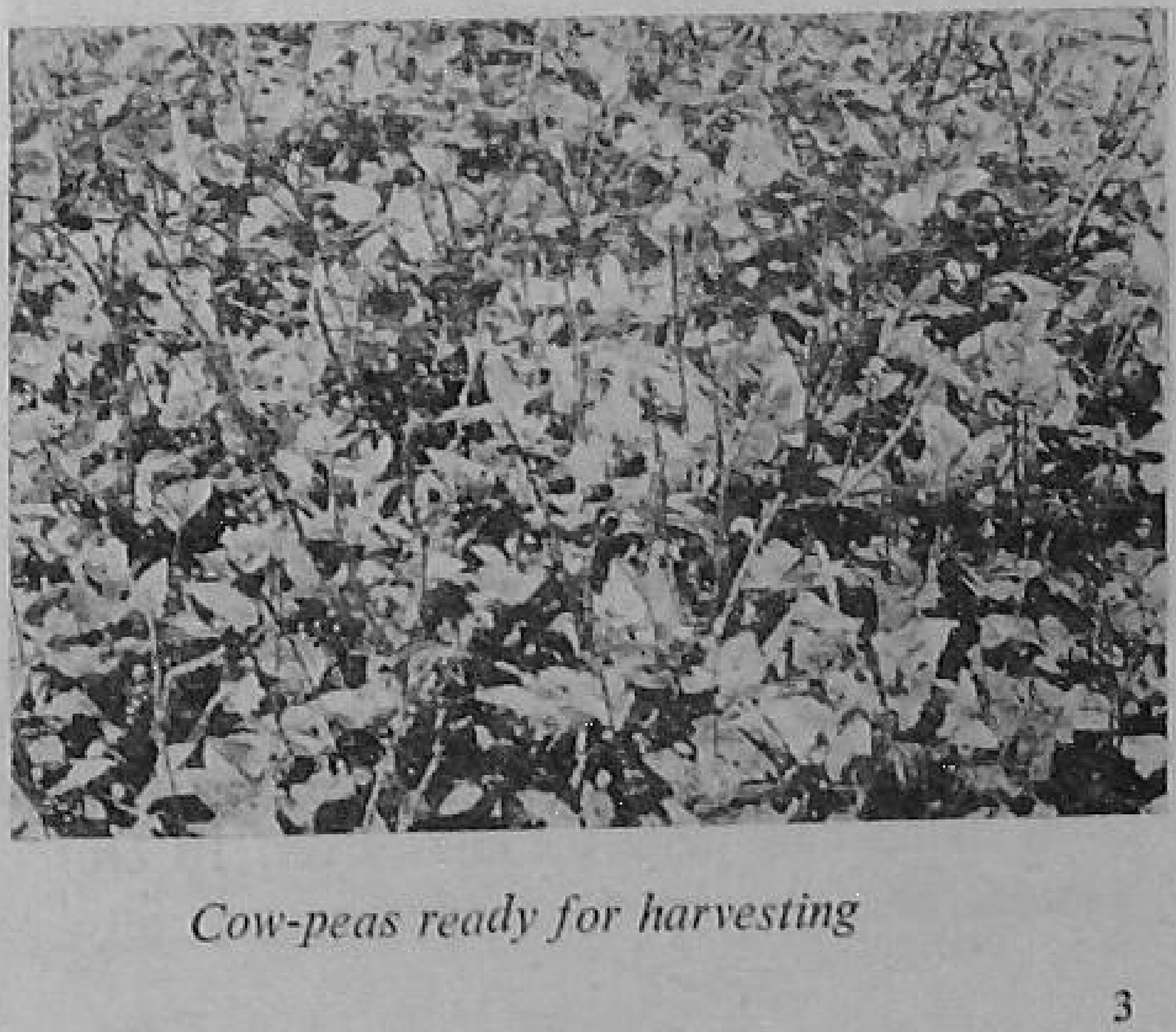
RICE is the staple food of India and more so of Keralā. But, Kerala produces only a little over half of its requirement, that is; approximately 10 lakh tons, importing 5 lakh tons annually. The average population of the State is as high as 1125 per sq. mile and average holding 30 cents (1/3 of an acre). The paddy area of the State is 19,24,724 acres of which about 1/3 are single crop areas. In double crop areas, the two crops raised are the *Viruppu* followed by *Mundakan*. The first crop takes about four months and the second crop five months. Consequently, there is an interval of three months immediately after the second crop. The paddy areas are mostly fixed and paddy alone is raised. Here and there crops like pulses, colocasia, sweet potatoes, vegetables, tapioca etc. are grown. But no earnest efforts have been made so far to make use of the interim period of three months.

MOST SUITABLE CROP

Experience has shown that the most suitable crop that can be raised is the pulses (cow pea). The crop has got a number of advantages *viz.* (1) it is a cereal food crop; (2) it is a leguminous crop capable of fixing atmospheric nitrogen; (3) the green parts serve as cattle fodder; (4) it is a short duration crop capable of giving good return; and (5) it serves as a good rotation crop in paddy lands.

The short duration variety locally known as "Vayal Kozhinji" occuring in white, red and black shades is the variety best suited to the place. It has a duration of 60 to 70 days. Other varieties like Black gram, green gram etc. are also grown, but they have longer duration covering 80 to 90 days. Seasamum can also be raised. The most suitable soil to grow pulses is the sand and sandy loam. Well drained soil without water-logging is essential.

Immediately after the harvest of the *Mundakan* crop in December-January, the fields are ploughed or ridges and furrows formed by manual labour. The size of the ridges varies according to the nature of the soil, locality etc. and usually it is 8′ × 3′. Seeds are also sown by broadcasting along with ploughing but ridges are preferred. Seed at the rate of 25 lbs. per acre is required when the



Cow-peas ready for harvesting

soil is fairly moist, as rains are scarce during the period. Higher seed rate reduces yield and ensures more vegetative growth. Fertilisers at the rate of 5 to 10 bags per acre are applied along with sowing. Of late, Super Lime Potash mixture in the preparation of 45 : 45 : 10 at the rate of 250 lbs. per acre is applied. Occasional rains, especially at the flowering period help to get bumper crops. Weeding is not generally practised, though it is resorted to by some people. Weeding, followed by interculture and top dressing if the season is favourable is sure to increase yield considerably.

PROTECTION AGAINST PESTS

The common pests are the cricket, which cut away the young plants; cater-pillars which eat away the leaves and grubs that bore through and destroy the pods. Plant protection measures are not generally adopted, though such measures shall increase yield. The farmer hesitates to invest more on this crop as he has to depend entirely on summer rains and does not like to use insecticides, as one of his chief aims is to get green fodder for his cattle during the summer. It is not rare to find the tender leaves being picked and used as greens for human consumption.

The plants grow to 1′ or more. Within about 60 days the pods 4″ to 6″ long are ready for harvest. The mature dry pods are harvested by hand picking as and when ready in one or more pickings. After hand picking, the plants are harvested leaving a stump 1″ to 2″ long.

The dry pods are dried in the sun, and seeds separated by threshing. Seeds of fully dry pods are selected, dried and preserved for the next sowing. The green pods also serve as vegetables. The green fodder is fed to the cattle and the surplus is dried in the sun, bundled up and preserved for future use. The pods, after extraction of the seeds, are relished much by the cattle and often fed to bullocks after their hard toil in the fields.

NET GAIN

It is estimated that the growing of pulses may bring in a net profit of Rs. 200/- per acre to the farmer. If all the ten lakh acres of paddy land throughout the State is grown with pulses it would result in an additional income of Rs. 10 crores. Besides, the pressure on foodgrains will also be relieved to some extent. Surely, this is no mean achievement in these days of National Emergency. The enrichment of the manurial value of the soil because of the leguminous crop is another distinct advantage.

Out of the total area of 4000 acres of double crop paddy lands in the Kazhakuttam Block, about 2000 acres have been grown with pulses and the farmers have become aware of the benefits of growing of pulses. The 40 demonstration plots opened in 1962-63 have become an eye-opener to the farmers of this area and may lead to the expansion of this type of cultivation throughout the length and breadth of Kerala.

INDIA AT THE CROSS ROADS

(*Continued from page 2*)

parts in the States must identify successful experiences in Cooperation which can be brought to the notice of all for emulation and cross-fertilisation.

Rural India as a whole is now covered by a network of extension services. Community Development and Panchayati Raj are in operation alongside. Panchayati Raj movement is being geared to play its part in promoting the healthy growth of the cooperative movement. It will employ its resources to complement the role of the Sahakari Samaj movement for mobilising the resources of the village people so as to bring about a rapid increase in production which holds the sole key to the immediate future.

May the Cooperative Week assert itself on these thoughts. Posterity will judge us by how we mobilise our resources of "Today" for the foundation of "Tomorrow". History never errs in its judgment. May we not be found wanting in this hour of destiny.

Message given on the occasion of the All India Co-operative Week celebrated from November 6 to 13, 1964.

A GRAMDAN VILLAGE FORGES AHEAD

SITUATED in the Bakota area of the Sibsagar district of Assam, the tiny village of Kakila Chuk, declared gramdan in 1954, is forging ahead with its plans and endeavours. Collective cultivation has been the creed of the villagers for the last seven years and they, though uncouth and unsophisticated in the modern sense, are nevertheless industrious and aspiring. They are trying their best to translate into action the famous maxim of V.I. Lenin, "from each according to his capacity, to each according to his need." What is more interesting about the village is that people over there have no benefits of an expert from outside; for almost everything of daily use they depend upon their own resources.

The village having 90 acres of gramdan land is owned by 20 gramdan families. They got registered a multipurpose co-operative society in 1958-59. For development of agriculture a loan of Rs. 25,000 was taken by them from the Government. Cultivating all the land collectively, they perform evening prayer every day when duties for all are assigned for the next day. Persons requiring leave of work for special reasons are readily granted.

Every tenth bundle of that paddy harvest which is tied in bundles and distributed equally among the members, goes to the gramnidhi or the collective fund of the village. Children, however, are given half the numbers of bundles given to adults. Bari lands owned individually are utilised for growing fruits, mainly bananas, pine apples, lemons, betelvines and vegetables. Fruits left after home consumption are sold away forming their private income. Sixty-nine bighas of upland and 45 bighas of pond forms, again, a collective ownership. Part of the produce, especially vegetables, is distributed among members while income of the produce sold in the market or at the plot goes to the gramnidhi for common good. Only about 15 bighas cultivated in the very first year yielded as much as Rs. 1,300·00 to be deposited in the gramnidhi. Another 13 bighas cultivated the second year was destroyed by floods while the third year a bumper crop of paddy, jute, mustard and potatoes was destroyed by envious and antagonistic neighbouring villages. While the case is pending decision in a law court, the gramdani villagers, underterred by the harm done, have fenced their fields with wooden posts and barbed wires. They are now thinking of taking recourse to horticulture as a permanent feature.

Village atmosphere, though replete with harmony, is at times disturbed by some thing or the other. A legal case against the neighbouring villages is one such thing. The other disturbing thing is taking of jobs outside by some of the members who earn private incomes in addition to their share in the common property of the village. Sons and wards of such persons are getting college education outside and that will result in taking them away from the village in search of fields and pastures anew.

Villagers of Kakila Chuk, though sincere and hard working, are oblivious of some of the possibilities of planned and intensive agriculture and horticulture. When told that their total 228 bighas can yield them Rs. 2,05,000 annually, it seemed to them at first quite incredible. But when details were explained to them, they were convinced and resolved to carry out the plan within a decade. Education in better and efficient agricultural and horticultural methods will gradually transform them better and better farmers and producers. Kakila Chuk is a village with promise.

(*Courtesy* : BHOODAN)

SAVE AND SERVE

As citizens of India, you are called upon "to work wholeheartedly for the full and timely realisation of the tasks, targets and aims of the Third Five Year Plan".

The Plan is in progress. Its success depends upon your providing capital for its working. In this effort no amount is too small—the man who saves a rupee and the man who saves hundreds—both are rendering national service.

Save as much as you can and entrust your savings to the nearest office of your Bank. In doing so you will help to build a new India and also create a valuable estate for yourself and your family.

With over 1700 *offices throughout India, Pakistan and Ceylon.*

**STATE BANK OF INDIA
&
THE SUBSIDIARIES
ARE AT THE NATION'S SERVICE**

THANJAVUR CELEBRATES V.V.F. DAY

USUALLY people in the villages of Thanjavur district in Madras have got work only for eight months from July to February and they have no adequate work during off season after the harvest of paddy crops is over. This off season is highly suited for utilising the idle man-power of the rural folk for some constructive purpose. The way as to how it should be utilised was thought of and it was considered that the celebration of a day in May as "Village Volunteers Day" in all the panchayats in this district will be the best way of kindling the enthusiasm of the people and to induce them to offer their voluntary labour for execution of some works of common benefit and that it would be the best method to do some constructive work by instilling in their minds the idea of community development and self-help. It was therefore decided early in April 1964 to celebrate 3rd May 1964 as "Village Volunteers Day" in all the Panchayats of the district. The Chairmen of all the Panchayat Union Councils and Commissioners were duly instructed well in advance to take all possible steps to celebrate the "Day" with success in each and every panchayat by canalising the enthusiasm and the idle energy of the people for turning out some important work useful to the community.

Third May 1964 is really the Red-letter day in the development history of Thanjavur district. Out of 1,566 Panchayats in this district, 1,335 panchayats celebrated the Village Volunteer Force Day. Ninety-one thousand and nine hundred and five volunteers undertook execution of various works like road formation and maintenance, tank deepening, silt clearance of channels, digging of drainage channels and other similar works. The total value of work turned out by them is estimated at Rs. 1,49,523 and in fact no expenditure was incurred by the Government for observance of "Village Volunteer Force Day".

Of all the works done in the 36 blocks of this district, the work done in Thondiakadu village of Muthupet Block deserves special mention. It would really be interesting for all to learn about the splendid results achieved and how the long felt needs of the ryots of the area were fulfilled by their concerted action to solve their drainage problem which was the main bottleneck for the proper cultivation of their lands.

SILTING

Muthupet is one of the blocks in the tail-end area of C.M.P. Irrigation system, where drainage of surplus water is the main problem especially during north-east monsoon period. This is due to the fact that the rivers, Pamaniar, Korayar, Kilaithangiar, Marakkakorayar and Valavanar, pass through this block and empty into the shallow lagoon. The lagoon is heavily silted up as a result of which it is not capable of receiving the waters of all these rivers. The drainage problem is particularly acute in Thondiakadu Village of this block. This is due to the fact that the Vettar drainage channel taking its course in Jambuvanodai, Thillaivilagam, Idumbavanam and Thondiakadu does not effectively discharge the surplus water into the Valavanar through the masonry surplus weir constructed on the right bank of Valavanar. Valavanar generally swells up during rainy days and it is not capable of receiving the Vettar surplus water through the surplus weir. Instead of drawing in the surplus water of Vettar, the Valavanar water escaped heavily through the surplus weir into the Vettar which was already full with drained water and thereby caused heavy damages to the paddy fields in Thondiakadu, Vilangadu, Idumbavanam, Thillaivilagam and Jambuvanodai villages every year. An area of 5,000 acres was subjected to floods every year in the above villages.

POSITION APPRAISED

The Block Development Officer, Muthupet who visited Thondiakadu village, by means of a country boat during the heavy rains in December 1963 in order to assess the flood damages for grant of relief noticed that all the paddy fields were under knee deep water and the village Thondiakadu was practically cut off from Idumbavanam and other nearby villages. The villagers were actually stranded for a week with no road communication. The villagers represented to the Block Development Officer that though they were agitating, for a number of years, for the closure of the surplus weir on the right bank of Valavanar

as it was not serving the purposes for which they were intended but were causing only adverse effects and that the Vettar surplus water could not effectively discharge at the surplus weir and they suggested that if the Vettar drainage channel was extended towards south for about a mile, where the level conditions were favourable, the Valavanar will receive the drained water. The suggestion was found reasonable and the Executive Engineer, Vennar, was appraised of the matter.

WORK COMMENCED

When the Block Development Officer visited the village in April 1964, it was suggested to the villagers to excavate a channel to a length of one mile in continuation of the Vettar drainage channel by voluntary labour so that the Vettar surplus could be drained into the Valavanar. The Block Development Officer addressed the Executive Engineer, Vennar for permission to excavate the channel by voluntary labour and the permission was readily granted. The Public Works Department authorities took levels and peg-marked the course of the new channel for about a mile allowing 45′ width. The entire length of one mile of the channel course was apportioned among the villagers of Idumbavanam, Thondiakadu, Karpagantharkulam, Munangadu, Pudukudi, Melakkadu Vandiakkadu and Mela Thondiakadu, allotting definite reaches to each village. The villagers undertook the execution of this work with enthusiasm and zeal, as they thought that by digging the channel, their long felt need will be fulfilled and they could get good return from their paddy fields, since their age long drainage problem would be solved once for all. The work was started with 3,000 men and it was completed in one month. On the whole about 10,000 persons contributed their labour free of cost for this gigantic work and the estimated cost of the work is about Rs. 15,000.

BENEFITS

The extent of benefit that is to be reaped by the excavation of this channel is great indeed. In Thondiakadu village, an area of 2,176·47 acres comprising of 1,008·59 acres of wet, 91.12 acres of manavari wet, 762.21 acres (under wet cultivation) and 314.55 assessed dry waste (under wet cultivation) suffers drainage difficulties every year and these lands will get substantial relief by this channel. Similarly an area of 895.28 acres consisting 610.20 acres wet, 20 acres dry, 143.14 acres assessed dry waste and 112.94 acres manavari in Idumbavanam village will get the maximum relief. It is further ascertained that an area of 854.55 acres (wet 40 acres, dry 500 acres, assessed dry waste 314.55) acres in Thondiakadu village and an extent of 79.46 acres (dry 4.46 acres, dry waste 75 acres) in Idumbavanam village can be newly brought under wet cultivation, which were left fallow for want of drainage facilities. Consequently, an increased revenue of Rs. 8,410 in Thondiakadu and Rs. 794.60 in Idumbavanam is anticipated every year by way of water cess.

LETTERS

(*Continued from page* 1)

STATUTORY ROLE FOR YOUTH CLUBS

Sir,

It is customary to encourage the Rural Youth Programme by providing some materials like agricultural implements, Bhajan Mandli equipments etc., at subsidised rates to the Youth Clubs through the block agency. But there is no representative of the Youth Clubs at Taluk, District, and State level to guide them and suggest ways and means for organising youth seminars, conferences, rallies and training programmes. This explains why the Youth Clubs are not playing the role they should have done. If the rural youth has to take an important part in the Rural Development Programme in modernising agriculture, the Youth Clubs should be linked to apex federations at higher levels. These bodies may be given a statutory status to make them effective.

In the newly emerging Panchayat Raj bodies specific place should be reserved for the youth organisations and some percentage of financial allocations for youth welfare activities should be provided in their budgets. Youth Clubs should be represented in Panchayats, Taluk Boards and Zilla Parishads.

Agricultural output can be increased only by adopting improved agricultural practices which can best be popularised through youth organisations of the villages. It is, therefore, imperative that suitable steps should be taken to place the Youth Clubs on a proper footing along the lines suggested above.

Yours etc.,
H. HULIYARAPPA
GRAMSEVAK

10-10-1964
Harohalli Circle,
BANGALORE.

A YOUTH CLUB SETS TH

AKOHARI is one of the five villages selected by Orientation & Study Centre, Bakshi-Ka-Talab for intensive development. The village is situated at a distance of two furlongs from the 2nd mile stone on Asthi road in the Community Development Block Bakshi-Ka-Talab. Youth programme is one of the important activities that has been taken up in this village.

Early in the month of January, 1963, the work was begun in this village. Although the Yuvak Mangal Dal, the Village Youth Organisation came into existence as early as October 1959, the progress uptil the end of the year 1962 remained, more or less, static.

The work was started by Shri Shiv Ram, an adult youth teacher belonging to this village by organising some games in the evening and inviting the youth to attend the adult classes. Some members, later in the year 1961 took up some kitchen gardening programme with the idea of introducing the production programmes in the youth clubs.

It was in the year 1963, that efforts were made by the entire village community to rejuvenate the youth club when for the first time, all the 56 youths of the village joined it.

AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

The Youth Club has played an outstanding role in popularising improved farming practices. At the time of the last Kharif season, the youth club had taken up a community project and besides that, individual projects were also taken up by the members. The club was able to procure 2/5 acres of land utilising it for common Agricultural programmes. In Kharif, the plot was used for growing maize crop and every member earned Rs. 1.50 from this plot. In addition, they had sown Kharif vegetables in their private plots for home consumption purposes. During Rabi, the youth club members took up wheat cultivation in the common plot. In their individual plots, the members grew cabbage, tomato, potato and onion.

Forty members have their individual kitchen gardening plots in the court-yard of their houses or in the fields adjacent to the village. The members also take interest in rearing poultry birds. A poultry Unit owned by the youth club has 21 birds at present. Eggs produced in the farm are utilised for the consumption of the members and for further development of the unit. The members planted trees in the poultry court-yard and have since introduced the Deep Litte System.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

There is a community spirit amongst the members. The members attend the meetings regularly. The attendance usually remains from 60 to 80 per cent. They meet once or twice a month in a regular meeting but informally, they meet practically daily in the evening in the cultural programmes organised at the residence of Shri Shiv Ram who is now the local member of the Panchayat and patron of the Youth club. Common features of the cultural programme are : Antakshari (poems competition), recital of songs on Development and Defence and staging of drama. Their drama "Hamari Sarak" became very popular. Now they contemplate to stage a drama on Production Programmes in the Community Development. Not only this, the games competitions amongst members of the club or intra-club competitions in the Gaon Sabha are held at the time of National Festivals or on other convenient occasions.

There is no membership fee. All the members join voluntarily. The monthly contribution from each member has been fixed at 10 n.Ps. Out of the funds and with the help in the form of subsidy, the club has managed to get barbed wires for fencing its common plot. The youth club has set up a library which the members and interested cultivators use. The youth club is contributing to a youth magazine entitled "Yuvak Samachar" published by Planning Research & Action Institute, Uttar Pradesh.

PACE FOR DEVELOPMENT

WHY SUCCESS?

A probe into the mechanism of the progress made by the Youth Club is likely to prove a rewarding study. On analysis, it is revealed that initially some success was mainly due to the interest taken up by Shri Shiv Ram, the village adult teacher who was being paid an honorarium from the Block and he, as a part of his duties, could inspire the village adults in the age group of 18-45 to assemble daily in the evening. Out of these he had chosen the youth members of age group 12-20 for being enrolled as the members of the youth club. The efforts were supplemented by Shri Nizamuddin Siddiqi who was trained in youth leadership and the youth activities. As soon as they abandoned taking interest and Shri Shiv Ram ceased to be an adult teacher, the cohesion in the village community became less and less which affected adversely the programme.

Subsequently efforts were made to breathe fresh life into the youth club in 1963. First of all, the confidence of the leaders of the major caste group was won over. The utility of the programme was explained at an informal meeting of the village called at the residence of a village leader. It was decided to end the groupism which had continued from the year 1962 onwards. Fresh elections were conducted in order that capable workers and potent leaders may be involved in the programme. Shri Shiv Ram, Ram Swarup and Sadiq Ali, the erstwhile youth leaders who command respect in the village community, have been actively associated with the regeneration programme of the youth club. The previous mistake of not including the Harijans and illiterate youths was not repeated. Members from all the sections of the village community were enrolled.

The club has now been able to generate the proper leadership in the village. Shri Shiv Ram and Ram Swarup who began public life as youth workers have now become responsible village leaders. Three main obstructions in the village in carrying out Shramdan for digging guls were removed by these leaders and as a result, the youth club members took active part in the Shramdan activities of the village. About two miles of new channels have been constructed and repaired.

Akohari has now begun to shine in the youth programme and a way has, thus, been paved for creating an atmosphere in the village to help the rural youth develop desirable values and standards of farming and community life.

PANCHAYATI RAJ IN WEST BENGAL

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Prime Minister, has given the following message on the occasion of the inauguration of the Panchayati Raj in West Bengal:

"Panchayati Raj is a great experiment in decentralisation. How it works would depend so much on those who are put in charge of it. They must discharge their responsibilities with tolerance and equity. West Bengal is about the last in the field to introduce this scheme. I am sure the State would benefit by the omissions and commissions of other States and try to execute the scheme with greater success. I wish the West Bengal Government and the Chief Minister well and all success in their new endeavours."

HASNABAD—BEST PANCHAYAT OF MAHBOOBNAGAR

KROVI RAMA RAU

HASNABAD village of Kodangal Block has been adjudged as the Best Gram Panchayat of Mahboobnagar district in Andhra Pradesh. The village having a population of 2395 is located at a distance of 4 miles from Kodangal Town.

FOOD PRODUCTION

Village production plans have been drawn up and executed by all the cultivators thus bringing about an increase of 20 per cent in food production. Ninety five per cent of the cultivators use improved seeds. A dozen registered cultivators get improved seed from Godown and this is multiplied and supplied to other ryots on barter system. There are three private societies which procure improved seed and supply to its members and other ryots on barter system. As many as 300 compost pits have been dug and 750 tons of compost manure is obtained from there. 250 families have taken up systematic composting under the scheme "Compost pit for each family". Nearly 1,000 cart loads of green manure is prepared every year. 3,000 Glaricidia seedlings were planted in this village during the "Glaricidia Week" celebrations. Use of phosphatic fertilisers has become a common and popular practice. 75 per cent of the cultivators use chemical fertilisers. Seed dressing and adopting of plant protection measures are widely practised in this village. Japanese method of paddy cultivation has impressed the cultivators and 80 per cent of paddy area is covered by Japanese method of paddy cultivation. The panchayat has got a sprayer, a duster and two weeders. Five cultivators have got their own sprayers and dusters and there are 20 weeders available with ryots. The Panchayat has ensured adequate steps to control pest attacks.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Under the Animal Husbandry programme, the Panchayat has done remarkable work. About 80 per cent of scrub bulls have been castrated. Pedigree cocks have been distributed to replace the country cocks and upgrade the local stock. About 80 per cent of the local cocks have been replaced. The Panchayat has also contributed towards the purchase of a breeding Bull and he-Buffalo. Three pedigree Rams have been supplied to individuals. A cash contribution of Rs. 250/- and rent-free building and furniture has been provided by the Panchayat for locating the First Aid Veterinary Centre.

CO-OPERATION

The multipurpose cooperative credit society has disbursed a loan amount of Rs. 32,000/- to its members. It has also been dealing in the distribution of fertilisers. Three joint farming societies have been started and the scheme has proved a great success. These societies are raising a "common welfare fund" to help build permanent assets to their societies and are contributing for other common interests of the village. All the three societies have got their own buildings constructed by joint efforts at a total cost of Rs. 15,000/-. The assets, investments and the working capital of these three societies come to Rs. 55,000/-.

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL EDUCATION

The mid-day meals programme was initiated by the villagers and 150 children are fed regularly. The people of this village have contributed Rs. 1,500/- to upgrade the Primary School into a Middle School and have also supplied adequate furniture and equipment.

An agricultural well is under construction purely on a voluntary basis to facilitate the school to take up agricultural programmes under Basic Education and make it self-sufficient.

The Adult Literacy Centres have been started, one for women and the other for the weaker sections of the community. So far about 35 per cent of villagers have become literate. The local Yuvak mandal or youth club as it is called, is playing a prominent part in the development of

(*Continued on page* 13)

COMMUNITY ON THE MOVE

A CULTIVATOR BANISHES HIS POVERTY

A CULTIVATOR named Chasia of village Bineri in Palari Development Block of Madhya Pradesh used to grow about 35 to 40 maunds of paddy from his total land comprising about 7 acres. The yield being insufficient to maintain his family, he had incurred a debt of about Rs. 1,500 and subsequently he mortgaged his land.

Before the introduction of package programme in his village, he sold his entire land to pay off his debt and purchased over 5 acres of new land. Despite his best efforts he could grow only 30 maunds per acre. In the year 1962-63, when the programme was introduced in his village, he adopted improved agricultural practices in 3 acres using fertilisers and pesticides. The extension staff and Gram Sevaks too helped him and gave him proper guidance. As a result of this, his yield increased up to 50 maunds per acre. He purchased more land and adopted this programme on the entire land. The yield increased up to 70 maunds per acre. This success has impressed other cultivators of the neighbouring villages who are now keen to follow his example to improve their economic lot.

EXTENSION OF GRAZING LAND

WITH A VIEW to extending the grazing land, the Luni Panchayat Samiti in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan has started intensive work in village Nandwan where the villagers, after digging about 1,000 pits on the slopes of the hill within a short period of 5 months have planted 500 saplings and completed ditch-fencing in an area of 70 acres of land for grazing purposes. Contour bunding has also been completed in 600 acres of land for which the Panchayat Samiti has granted a loan of Rs. 7,712. Kharif crop was sown for the first time on this land.

TRAINING CAMP OF VILLAGE LEADERS

A THREE-DAY village leaders' camp was held recently at Manki village in Rahatgarh development block of Madhya Pradesh. In the village leaders' camp, 54 enthusiastic cultivators from 9 villages took part and were imparted training in agriculture as well as rural development work. On this occasion, iron ploughs of the improved type were exhibited. The cultivators of Manki have purchased 22 ploughs of the improved type with a view to step up agricultural production. This village had got 9 Shabash type ploughs as a reward for their good work during the Manure Week.

LADIES' CAMP

A LADIES' camp was also held at village Parasari in Rahatgarh Block of Madhya Pradesh. Fifty ladies from 7 villages participated in the camp. They were given training in practical works regarding development programme and cleanliness. In the camp, the ladies resolved to start a girls' school for the village.

A WEST BENGAL FARMER SETS EXAMPLE

SHRI BAIDYANATH Roy of Ansgram-II Development Block, Burdwan district in West Bengal is a member of the village Panchayat as well as a progressive farmer. With a holding of 10 acres only he is able to maintain a family of 6 adults and 3 children on a decent standard of living. The secret of his prosperity is intensive cultivation. He does not leave a single inch of his farm uncultivated at any time of the year. After harvesting paddy he would raise potato crop with pumpkin as a mixed crop along with it. To ensure irrigation supplies he has sunk a tube-well of 3" diameter with the help of a loan of Rs. 500 from the Block. He makes liberal use of all varieties of chemical fertilisers as well as adequate quantities of farm yard manure. He brings the entire farm under green manuring at least once in three years.

INDUSTRIALISATION DRIVE IN LUCKNOW

AN INDUSTRIALISATION campaign is on in the Lucknow Division from September 15 to December 31. It is proposed to set up a minimum of four new industrial units in each community development Block. All necessary arrangements for the selection of units, sanction of loans, supply of machinery, power, raw materials and the technical know-how have already been made.

GENEROUS GESTURE BY A VILLAGER

Shri Balu Ram Maheshwari, a resident of village Mathania Panchayat Samiti, Osian, District Jodhpur, Rajasthan, donated a building valued at Rs. 25,000 for housing Boys' Primary School at Mathania. The building has a covered area of 6,000 sq. yds. It has 6 class-rooms of size 19′ × 16′, one hall of size 29′ × 19′ with 8 ft. verandah in front and one room for Piao (Water Room).

MIRACLE OF AMBAR CHARKHA

The Ambar charkha brought a new hope in the otherwise dark and desolate life of a young village widow. Sarayu, residing in the village of Matia in Santhal Pargana of Bihar, lost her husband and the only son when she was in her prime of youth. She had no means to earn an honourable living. Sarayu was in the grip of serious disease known as gout, it was practically impossible for her to move; she became bed-ridden. The recovery was very slow.

Fortunately in such a state, the charkha came to her rescue and changed the course of her life. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission had just opened a model ambar production centre under the Santhal Pargana Gramodyog Samiti in Matia village. Within a couple of days 6-spindle ambar charkhas began to be plied in large numbers. The village women evinced keen interest in this new instrument. Sarayu too threw her heart and soul in learning spinning and thereby earning at least as much as was necessary for her bare existence. She was soon a well-trained spinner and began to earn, on an average, Rs. 31 per month. In the months of May and June of this year she spun 129 and 141 meter hanks respectively. The total amount she earned as wages was Rs. 43 at the rate of 16 paise per hank. This was not the only benefit. She also got rid of the gout, which had shattered her life. Thus the charkha ameliorated not only her material conditions but also improved her health. Now sitting in her own house she can earn by spinning. She says that her 6-spindle charkha has come as a boon to her.

21,000 MAN-DAYS OFFERED TO DEFENCE LABOUR BANK

Over 21,000 man-days have been offered to the Defence Labour Bank in Patrasayer Community Development Block in Bankura district of West Bengal. About 12,000 persons have been enrolled from the Block areas in the Village Volunteer Force. A few irrigation channels and a Jore-Bundh at the junction of Musas Ghoradange and Netrakhanda have been constructed through voluntary labour. Thirty-two Service Cooperatives have been set up with a total working capital of Rs. 1,20,351. A crop loan amounting to Rs. 62,805 has been distributed among the cultivators during the year 1963-64. Fourteen small irrigation schemes have been implemented.

CROP PIONEER HONOURED

With the posthumous honour bestowed on late Padama Bapa known popularly as the 'Father of Groundnut' has come to light the fascinating and romantic story of how ground-nut cultivation was introduced in Saurashtra for the first time. Padma Nathubhai Kalaria, a farmer of Piplaia village of Rajkot district was the first to bring groundnut seeds to Saurashtra from Madras in 1910. He was the first progressive farmer in those days given to experiments in farming. His first interest was linseed growing, which owing to unfavourable weather, he gave up. It was during his research and experiment that he came across, 'kaju kali' initial name given to groundnut by the villagers, which he brought from Madras as baby-food 54 years ago. The Saurashtra weather proved suitable for 'Kaju Kali' which was renamed by the Bhagat as 'Bhukh Kadhi' which meant "goodbye to hunger". Since then the seed has spread throughout the area. Saurashtra is expected to harvest a record groundnut crop of 10 lakh tons, worth Rs. 100 crores.

50 NEHRU BAL UDYANS PLANNED

The High Power Committee on 'Nehru Bal Udyans' has proposed that a sum of Rs. 7,20,000 should be sanctioned for 50 'Bal Udyans' (Children's Parks) in 22 districts of Rajasthan. According to schemes already approved Sikar district will have five 'Bal Udyans'.

NO EMPTY WORDS FOR EMPTY STOMACHS

It happened at a gathering of 2,000 persons at a film show held by the Field Publicity Organisation, Government of India, at an interior village of Mysore State. After a talk by the Field Publicity Officer, Shri B. A. Sanadi, four persons got up and remarked that it was not words but food that they required for their hungry stomachs.

The embarrassing situation was saved by Shidramappa, Chairman, Village Panchayat who offered an acre crop of maize to all those fellow villagers who were ready to repay the cost at the time of the next harvesting season. His generous gesture was in the best traditions of the Village Panchayat whose special liability is to look after the interests of the weaker Sections".

PLANT PROTECTION WORK IN HARSUD BLOCK

PLANT PROTECTION work was done on 437 acres of land and 33 tons of chemical fertilisers were distributed to cultivators in Harsud development block of East Nimar district in Madhya Pradesh during the month of August 1964. Besides, green manure was sown on an area of 980 acres. In all 1,180 heads of cattle were treated, 1,661 were vaccinated and 27 useless bulls were castrated. The construction work of one school building, 4 drinking water wells and renovation work of 3 wells was also taken in hand.

CONTOUR BUNDING IN 22,000 ACRES

VARIOUS measures for soil conservation have been taken in Pali district under the Package programme. During the current year contour-bunding in 22,000 acres, Merh Bundi in 50,000 acres and terracing in 350 acres is proposed to be done. According to the programme, dry farming methods will be adopted in 50,000 acres and land survey in 50,000 acres. So far contour bunding has been done in 14,347 acres. Twenty-five per cent of the total expenditure will be given as subsidy and 75 per cent as loan to the cultivators. A sum of Rs. 1·5 lakhs has been sanctioned for loan and subsidy. Soil conservation work will be undertaken in 1,400 acres of desert land during the current year. The work will include tree plantation, fencing etc. In the irrigated areas levelling of land, construction of field channels, preparation of field plans will be done under the soil conservation scheme.

GANDHI JAYANTI CELEBRATED

UNDER THE auspices of Panchayat Samithi, Bangarupalyam, Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated in a befitting manner at Mudigolam village under the presidentship of Shri P. Narasimha Reddy President, Panchayat Samithi. In the morning the villagers cleaned the streets. The approach road to Mudigolam village, about 1½ mile in length was repaired with the help of shramdan offered by nearly five hundred villagers. The photo of Gandhiji decorated with flowers was drawn by 96 pairs of bullocks and carried in a procession of about five thousand villagers.

YOUNG FARMERS CLUBS MAKE HEADWAY

THE YOUNG Farmers' Clubs in Lala Development Block, Assam State, have been making steady progress over the last few years. During 1963-64 the Vatigram Naba Sangh carried out Japanese method of paddy cultivation in over 780 bighas, vegetable cultivation in over 250 bighas and Basugaon method of Potato cultivation in over 60 Bighas. Its president Shri Khelo Singha produced 80 mds. 30 seers of potatoes per bigha for which he was awarded a prize. The Laichramkhun Young Farmers Club is another institution which has made notable achievements in the field of agriculture. One of its members Shri Barani Singha was awarded a prize in crop competition organised by the Department in 1963-64.

HASNABAD—BEST PANCHAYAT OF MAHBOOBNAGAR

(*Continued from page 10*)

the village. The members have taken up various agricultural projects such as the use of different kinds of fertilisers in various proportions.

Rent-free accommodation is provided by the Panchayat for the Mahila Mandali and Balwadi. Free housing accommodation has been made available for a Maternity Centre. The six drinking water wells are chlorinated once every month. An amount of Rs. 2,000/- has been contributed for the proposed protected water supply scheme. The Panchayat is maintaining all the internal roads. Expenditure towards street lights is also borne by the panchayat.

One of the note-worthy features of this Panchayat is the collection of 8 seers of Paddy per acre as a special tax and every year about Rs. 2,000/- worth of paddy is thus collected. The sale proceeds of the same are being utilised for the development of the village.

All the three basic institutions for the development and welfare of the village *i.e.* the village Panchayat, School and the Cooperative are functioning in perfect harmony with each other. One of the most striking features which attracts the attention of the visitor is the Cleanliness of the village.

AROUND THE STATES

KERALA

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN KERALA

OUT OF a total of 4,679 villages in Kerala, as many as 1,545 were electrified at the beginning of the third plan and, taking into account all the villages included in the plan, the percentage of electrified villages is expected to go up to 45.8.

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MAHARASHTRA

COMPLETE LITERACY IN 2,481 *VILLAGES*

AS A RESULT of the village literacy drive (Gram Shikshan Mohim), 2,481 villages in Maharashtra State have achieved cent per cent literacy from 1961 to March 1964. Under the campaign, all the people between the ages of 14 to 50 years are taught to read. Up to the end of March 1964, in all 14,33,010 persons have been made literate under the scheme.

During the last three years, Bombay Division was on the forefront in this drive with 985 villages achieving complete literacy. The respective figures for other divisions are : Poona Division, 864 villages; Nagpur Division, 410 villages and Aurangabad Division, 222 villages.

Districtwise, Jalagaon has the highest number of literate villages being 512. The first five districts in the order of merit with the number of literate villages in each of them are Jalgaon 512, Ahmednagar 421, Dhulia 260, Poona 211 and Buldana 206. The pace of progress in this regard is comparatively slow in Thana, Ratnagiri, Chanda, Akola, Wardha, Bhandara and Nanded. The State has fixed a target of making a population of 20 lakhs literate during 1964-65.

ZILLA PARISHAD RULES PUBLISHED

THE MAHARASHTRA Zilla Parishads and the Panchayat Samitis (Publication of Annual Administrative Report) Rules, 1964, have since been published.

Under these rules, the Block Development Officers are required to prepare a report on the annual administration of panchayat samitis in respect of the financial year immediately preceding the end of June every year. The report will be presented to the Panchayat Samitis by July 15, every year. The Chief Executive Officers are required to prepare a report on the annual administration of the zilla parishads in respect of the financial year immediately preceding the end of July every year. The reports will be placed before the standing committees and the subject committees of the respective Zilla Parishads for approval by August 15, every year. The Chief Executive Officer will also place before the Zilla Parishad a consolidated report of the zilla parishad and the panchayat samitis, by September 20, every year. The reports will be prepared in Marathi or Hindi and a copy authenticated by the Chief Executive Officer shall be prepared in English. The reports in Marathi or Hindi and English shall be published before the end of October every year.

KHARIF CROP COMPETITION

THE GOVERNMENT of Maharashtra has sanctioned award of prizes at the State, panchayat samiti, and gram panchayat levels, for the best performance during the Kharif Crop Campaign, 1964, in order to introduce an element of competition among the districts and also to provide an incentive for increasing agricultural production.

The State level prizes will comprise of a first prize of Rs. 1,000 for the district with best performance and a second prize of Rs. 500 for the district with second best performance. At the panchayat samiti level, there will be one prize of Rs. 500 for the panchayat samiti with best performance in each district. At the gram panchayat level there will be one prize of Rs. 100 to the village with best performance in each panchayat samiti area.

With a view to intensifying the efforts for increasing the agricultural production during the current kharif season, the Government has already sanctioned a comprehensive programme during which special attention is being devoted to certain aspects of work like opening of paddy lands, raising nurseries for supply of paddy seedlings, treating jowar with sulphur, etc.

ENGINEERING STAFF FOR ZILLA PARISHADS

THE GOVERNMENT of Maharashtra has sanctioned a scheme of short term sub-overseer's course for training of candidates for being appointed as Assistants to the Extension Officers (Works) for meeting the needs of the zilla parishads in manning the lower supervisory engineering staff required to carry out their development programme. The trainees will be paid a stipend of Rs. 40 per month. The duration of the training course will be 10 months. The selection of candidates for the first batch of this course will be made divisionwise by the selection committee at each centre.

TEACHERS TO HELP FAMILY PLANNING

THE GOVERNMENT of Maharashtra has appealed to the school teachers in the State to give their helping hand for the national cause of family planning.

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MADRAS

GRAMSEVAKS EXCLUSIVELY FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WORK

WITH A VIEW to increasing Agricultural Production in the context of National Emergency, the Madras Government have recently issued instructions to the effect that the services of Gramsevaks should be utilised exclusively for Agricultural Production work. The Gramsevaks who were hitherto serving as multipurpose workers for implementing various development programmes in rural areas, could not devote much attention to Agricultural Production. The State Government have therefore recently delegated the various items of work other than Agriculture, hitherto done by the Gramsevaks to Extension staff and Social Welfare Workers. They have also been directed to help the Panchayats, in convening their monthly meetings regularly, to attend these meetings, and to use these meetings as a forum for propagation of improved Agricultural practices. The Agricultural Work (including Animal Husbandry and Fisheries) exclusively entrusted to Gramasevaks, includes Loan Enquiry Work and the Organisation of Agricultural Extension and Supplies and the rendering of assistance to Panchayats to draw up and successfully implement the Village Production Plans. It is expected that this relief from non-agricultural work will enable the Gramsevaks working in all the 374 Panchayat Unions of this State, to concentrate on Agricultural Production programmes.

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PUNJAB

CRASH PROGRAMME FOR ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

THE PUNJAB Government has decided to launch the Centrally-sponsored Rs. 140 lakh crash programme for the development of agriculture and animal husbandry in this State. The programme due to be fully in operation by March 1966, consists of plans to give subsidy and loans to the people. The Programme includes plans for intensive cattle development in Amritsar and Rohtak, establishment of a bacon factory and a piggery near Chandigarh, large scale sheep farming in the Sutlej river bed, encouragement of sheep breeding among the cultivators, and sewing of waste for compost making. A sum of Rs. 92 lakhs has been provided for cattle breeding in Amritsar and Rohtak so that the collection of milk for the Amritsar milk plant and for the Delhi Milk Supply Scheme could be improved. A sum of Rs. 18.5 lakhs has been earmarked for setting up a bacon factory and a piggery near Chandigarh. A sum of Rs. 6 lakhs has been provided under the programme for advancing loans to cultivators to encourage them to keep sheep as the Government wants to discourage keeping of goats. Loans would be given out of a provision of Rs. 4.5 lakhs for encouraging cultivation of vegetables and fruits at Chandigarh, Sonepat, Panipat and Hissar. Rs. 1,76,000 have been earmarked for helping local bodies to sew waste for compost making.

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FROM THE CENTRE

ALL INDIA MILK YIELD COMPETITIONS 1964-65

THE ALL-INDIA competitions in milk yield for 1964-65, organised by the Central Council for Gosamvardhana, are being held in two seasons, namely, September-October 1964 and February-March 1965. They are open to different breeds of cattle and also buffaloes.

For eligibility to the competitions, the minimum daily milk yields and the respective breeds are : Gir (30 lbs.); Hariana (25 lbs.); Kankrej (30 lbs.); Ongole (20 lbs.); Tharparkar (30 lbs.); Sahiwal (35 lbs.); Sindhi (35 lbs.); Cross-bred cows (50 lbs.); and buffaloes (all breeds under one category 35 lbs.).

The Central Council of Gosamvardhana awards the following prizes in each breed :

First prize of Rs. 2,000.

Second Prize of Rs. 1,000.

Third Prize of Rs. 500.

Merit certificates are also awarded to the winners of the first three prizes. One additional consolation prize of Rs. 250 is awarded if the entries exceed 50 and two consolation prizes of Rs. 250 each if the entries exceed 75 in each breed. The owner of the first prize-winning animal is awarded the special "Gopal Ratna" Medal. The Council has also decided to institute special prizes of Rs. 5,000 each to all the best cows yielding more than 60 lbs. of milk per day.

The scheme of holding All-India Milk Yield Competitions was initiated by the Central Council of Gosamvardhana in 1956-57 with the object of providing an incentive to breeders and encouraging them to adopt improved animal husbandry practices for increasing the productivity of their cattle. The competitions have since become a regular feature.

PROGRAMME OF RICE MILLS IN THE COOPERATIVE SECTOR TO BE STEPPED UP

THE NATIONAL Cooperative Development Corporation has decided to expand the programme of establishment of rice mills in the cooperative sector by providing 100 per cent financial assistance. The assistance which would be routed through the State Governments, will be outside the State Plan ceilings, and will be given out of the accumulated funds of the corporation. The State Governments in turn will invest these funds in the share capital of cooperatives undertaking paddy processing. In providing such assistance, the Corporation will give priority to the proposals received from the States in the eastern region which are comparatively backward in the field of cooperation.

The Corporation has also approved the proposal to link the marketing and consumer cooperative societies in order to reduce the price spread between producers and consumers and at the same time to ensure a better return to the producer without injuring the interests of the consumer.

FAIR PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

THE UNION Ministry of Industry and Supply has called upon the manufacturers of agricultural implements to take immediate steps to ensure that their products are made available to farmers at reasonable prices. In a circular letter to all manufacturers of agricultural implements, the Ministry has stressed that the easy availability of such implements to the farmers at reasonable prices would help increase food production and bring down the prices of foodgrains and other agricultural commodities. The Ministry has urged that the manufacturers should make available implements to farmers through the authorised dealers and stockists at their published list prices and also ensure that the trade strictly adheres to these prices. Suggesting periodical surprise checks by representatives of the manufacturers, the Ministry has stressed that complaints received from the customers in this regard should be promptly enquired into and immediate steps taken against the concerned dealers including, if necessary, the cancellation of their agency. The Ministry has also called upon the producers to publicise their price lists and ensure prominent display of the lists at the premises of the dealers and stockists.

A brick-paved lane in a village in Uttar Pradesh.

The Panchayat of a village in West Bengal discussing their programme of work.

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